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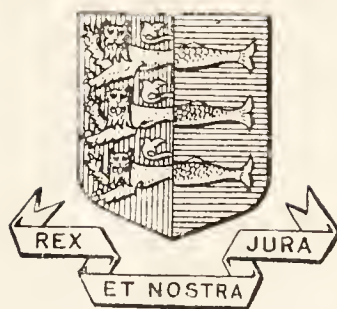
THE GREAT YARMOUTH
EDUCATION AUTHORITY

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
For 1946

Great Yarmouth:

John Buckle (Printers) Ltd., Theatre Plain.

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY
OF GREAT YARMOUTH

Public Health Department,
Town Hall,

Great Yarmouth.

20th March, 1947.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Report on the Medical Inspection of School Children during 1946.

Most of the school children have now returned from the reception areas, and the service is now functioning normally.

I am most grateful for all the assistance from all those interested, directly or indirectly, in helping to maintain a reasonably good standard of School Health Service.

I am, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

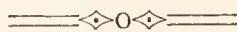
Your obedient servant,

V. N. LEYSHON,

School Medical Officer.

STAFF OF SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

DECEMBER, 1946



Medical Staff—

School Medical Officer :

V. N. LEYSHON, M.D., B.S. (Lond), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Assistant School Medical Officers :

H. C. PRICE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

(Resigned, 30th November, 1946)

A. JOHNSTON, M.B., CH.B.

B. M. KELLY, M.B., CH.B., B.A.O., L.M., D.C.H.

Dental Staff—

W. NICHOLLS, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Health Visiting Staff—

Four Health Visitors are employed by the Council.

I—CO-ORDINATION

There is complete co-ordination between the various branches of the school health services and the various branches of the health services of the Borough.

The clinics provide both maternity and child services in addition to school medical requirements, and there is complete co-ordination between medical, nursing and clerical staffs.

II—SCHOOL HYGIENE

The officers of the department make frequent inspections, and any recommendations are made through the School Medical Officer to the appropriate departments.

The schools in the area vary from the most up-to-date downwards, both as regards structure and equipment. There are six modern schools, and their sanitation and hygiene are of a very high standard.

III—SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTION

(a) *Routine Inspections.*

With the return to almost normal conditions in the Borough, there has been a steady increase in the numbers of children coming under the care of the School Medical Service for treatment and medical inspection.

The number of children examined in the routine medical inspections has been almost double that of 1945. The medical inspection of the second age group, omitted during the war years, has been resumed, and with their return to the town from the reception area, the Secondary Schools have had their medical inspection.

All parents are notified and requested to attend at the routine school medical inspections. Their presence is a tremendous asset in attempting to obtain as full advantage as possible of the medical survey.

During 1946, 2,042 children were examined at the routine medical inspections.

(b) Cleanliness Inspections

At regular intervals, cleanliness surveys have been made by the School Nurses at the schools, and careful following up, in cases where infestation has been notified, has been done.

There is no cleansing centre in the Borough, and with the lack of wash-basins and running water in the clinic, there are no facilities for dealing with cases where home treatment has been unsatisfactory. While the onus of cleanliness remains with the parent, there are, nevertheless, many cases which could have been dealt with much more expeditiously at the clinic, and consequently there have frequently been longer absences from school on account of lice infestation than there would have been if treatment had been available. The new proposed school clinic should remedy this defect.

The habitual offenders amongst the school children are mostly re-infested by others in the home, and unless families can be dealt with instead of individual children, there must always be a percentage of recurrent cases.

During 1946, 16,935 examinations were carried out and 436 children were found to be infested.

The incidence of scabies, which for a variety of reasons amounted during the war years almost to epidemic proportions, is now gradually subsiding.

Baths and treatment are available to the public at the Gorleston Clinic.

The total number of treatments carried out during the year was 516.

(c) School Clinics.

School Clinics are held every morning at Great Yarmouth and

Gorleston. These clinics have cases referred by parents, teachers and other authorities. The children requiring treatment are referred either to their family doctor, special clinic, or to the Yarmouth General Hospital, according to the needs of the appropriate case.

During the year 1,705 children attended the clinics, with 11,635 attendances. 505 exclusions were granted.

IV—FINDINGS OF MEDICAL INSPECTION

(a) *Nutrition.*

The standard of nutrition has risen in the past five years, due largely to, (1) the extension of supply of milk and school meals, (2) a higher standard of living in the home as a result of higher wages, and (3) to the extra nourishment in the way of milk and free cod liver oil supplied to children of pre-school age.

It will be noted in Table II that in the past five years the percentage of children coming under classification A (excellent) has risen steadily from 7.7 per cent to 17.53 per cent, while those under classification C (slightly sub-normal) has decreased from 18 per cent to 5.3 per cent.

(b) *Minor Ailments and Diseases of the Skin.*

The undermentioned table gives the numbers of children found at routine and special inspections during the past year :—

Ringworm	...	...	...	...	24
Scabies	...	...	...	...	139
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	138

(c) *Visual Defects and External Eye Diseases.*

184 children with errors of refraction (including squint) and 69 with other diseases of the eye were dealt with.

(d) *Nose and Throat Defects.*

101 cases have been noted during the year as abnormal, and of that number surgical intervention was advised in 59 cases.

251 children have had the necessary operation under the authority's scheme during the year.

(e) *Dental Defects.*

This defect is dealt with separately in the Dental Surgeon's report.

(f) *Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.*

63 cases were found to require treatment during the year.

Children suffering from orthopaedic defects have attended clinics held once a month by the Orthopaedic Surgeon. Bi-weekly clinics for treatment, massage and remedial exercises have also been held by the Orthopaedic Nurse.

Twelve cases have received operative treatment during the year. 95 cases were seen by the Surgeon, and 404 by the Orthopaedic Nurse during the year.

(g) *Heart Disease.*

One case of organic heart disease and 35 functional cases were discovered during the year.

(h) *Tuberculosis.*

The following cases were referred to the Tuberculosis Officer :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis, suspected...	1
Non Pulmonary (glands)	1

At a special session of the Minor Ailments Clinic children who are contacts of tuberculosis patients and selected delicate children have been investigated, and Mantoux and Tuberculin Patch tests have been carried out. All positive reactions have been referred to the Tuberculosis Officer for further investigation.

V—ARRANGEMENTS FOR TREATMENT

The Local Authority undertakes at the School Treatment Clinics, or by arrangement with other Authorities, treatment as under :—

- (a) Minor Ailments at the Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Clinics.
- (b) Dental defects at the Dental Clinic.
- (c) Visual defects at the Eye Clinic.
- (d) Surgical treatment of tonsils and adenoids at the Great Yarmouth General Hospital.
- (e) Orthopaedic defects the Great Yarmouth General Hospital, Melton Lodge, and the Norfolk and Norwich General Hospital.
- (f) Diphtheria immunisation at the School Clinics.
- (g) Tuberculous or suspected tuberculous children at various sanatoria and at the Isolation Hospital.
- (a) *Minor Ailments Treatment Clinic.*

The undermentioned table gives the numbers of children treated and the diseases and defects dealt with :—

Number of children treated	...	...	...	...	...	1705
Total visits paid	...	...	...	...	...	11635
Ringworm	...	...	...	...	...	24
Scabies	...	...	...	...	...	139
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	138
Other skin diseases	...	...	...	...	...	73
Minor eye defects	...	...	...	...	...	125
Minor ear defects	...	...	...	...	...	129
Nose and Throat	...	...	...	...	...	68
Minor injuries	...	...	...	...	...	225
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	784
Total	...	...	...	...	...	1705

(b) *Dental Defects.*

The following is the report of the School Dental Surgeon, Mr. W. Nicholls :—

“ During the period under review, as there has been a rapid and marked increase in the population of the Borough, an increasing number of children has come under the dental scheme. This has necessitated a strict regulation of inspection sessions, so as to provide more time for treatment sessions ; and in consequence it has not been possible to visit all the schools in my area. Since the percentage of acceptances has increased, the time elapsing between one inspection and another has also increased.

It must be pointed out that as the higher age groups are dealt with, considerably more time is required for conservative work, and the number of appointments is adjusted as required.

The defects found at the inspection are not entered on a special chart, but any child with a defect is given a form which requires the consent of the parent or guardian. An appointment is then made for the child to attend the clinic for treatment, accompanied by a responsible person. A thorough examination is made before treatment is begun, and the parent is supplied with the particulars of the treatment which is proposed to be undertaken.

Incidentally, it may be mentioned that these “ chair-side talks ” form a valuable form of propaganda, as they undoubtedly enable parents to realise that the treatment is necessary, and that it is sure to have a beneficial effect on the general health of the child.

Judicious extraction of teeth to relieve the overcrowding or to prevent irregularities or to render the mouth healthy and

useful, is the general practice, but special attention is paid to the preventive and restorative side of dentistry, and in consequence all teeth which can possibly be saved are filled.

An interesting feature of the work during the year is that an increasing number of children are having treatment as a result of school medical inspections, and those who have previously refused to have conservative treatment of permanent and temporary teeth are now having them filled. It is also gratifying to note that more parents are availing themselves of the advice of the School Dental Surgeon.

In the routine age groups, for every permanent extraction, 8 teeth were filled, whilst in the casual group less than 3 were filled. Nine permanent fillings were inserted for every one temporary filling.

The teeth of 118 children were scaled and cleaned, 5 cases treated for severe gingivitis, 68 children had silver nitrate applied to their temporary teeth, and 105 temporary fillings were inserted in permanent teeth.

19 half-days were spent in inspection, and an average of 200 children per session inspected. In all, 2,168 children were referred from these inspections for treatment. Extractions were 193 permanent, and 1,754 temporary teeth, while 1,275 permanent and 136 temporary teeth were filled.

Special application by parents for treatment of children was made in 340 cases. The average attendance per day was 13, of whom 7 received complete treatment. All treatment was carried out at one permanent clinic at Yarmouth.

I should like to express my appreciation of the willing and most useful co-operation which I have received from Head Teachers and their Staffs, as well as from nurses in the Borough who, one and all, fully appreciate the importance of prompt and effective dental advice and treatment."

W. NICHOLLS,
School Dental Surgeon.

(c) *Visual Defects.*

Dealt with earlier in the report.

(d) *Surgical Treatment of Tonsils and Adenoids.*

Dealt with earlier in the report.

(e) *Orthopaedic Defects.*

Dealt with earlier in the report.

(f) *Diphtheria Immunisation.*

There has been a satisfactory rise in the numbers of children immunised during 1946. Out of a total number of 977 immunised, the figures for the 5–15 age groups were 158 immunised, as compared with 73 for the previous year. In addition, a third protective dose has been given to 288 school children. Part of the increase in figures is of course due to the return to the town from reception areas.

Much help has been given by the teachers, in particular those in the infant departments, by their advice to parents who had omitted to have their children immunised before starting school, and this has been much appreciated.

A special session has been held for diphtheria immunisation once a week instead of, as previously, doing these at the Minor Ailments Clinic. This was done to overcome any risk of sepsis.

The Schick Test is also carried out at this clinic. This is necessary to make any immunisation scheme thorough and complete, as this test confirms or refutes the effectiveness of protection against diphtheria by immunisation.

(g) *Tuberculosis.*

No child was found to be suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year.

VI—INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The notification of infectious diseases in the school population during the past two years has been as follows :—

<i>Disease</i>					1945	1946
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	71	34
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	6	6
Measles	...	...	...	...	105	93
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	40	29
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	—	3

There were no deaths from diphtheria during the year.

VII—PROVISIONS OF MEALS

(a) *Meals.*

The daily average number of meals served during the year was :—

Paying	...	...	...	...	1968
Free	...	...	...	...	790
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	2758
					<hr/>

(b) *Milk.*

An approved milk supply is available in every school in the Borough.

Samples are taken from time to time and submitted to laboratory investigation.

Milk is available daily to children in attendance at school.

The average number of bottles supplied each day was 4,549.

(c) *Additional Nourishment.*

In addition to the provision of dinners and milk, children who are recommended by the School Medical Officer, are supplied with cod liver oil and malt, Adexolin, etc.

VIII—PHYSICAL TRAINING

The report of the Organiser of Physical Training is appended :—

“ All branches of Physical Education have been carried out during the year. These include :—

1. *Physical Training.* Supplemented in the Secondary Modern Schools by the use of portable gymnastic apparatus and in the case of the Greenacre and Gorleston Secondary Modern Schools this work is taken in fully equipped gymnasias.

2. *Dancing.* Folk dancing in the Girls' Secondary Modern Schools and dancing involving free movement has been included in the scheme of work for primary departments.

3. *Games.* Where playing space is not provided on the School site the Secondary Modern Schools and in some cases the 4th year in the Junior Schools have been using the Beaconsfield and Southtown Common grounds.

4. *Swimming.* All children from 10+ upwards have been given the opportunity of attending both the Yarmouth and Gorleston Baths for instruction. At the tests held in July and September, 446 certificates were gained for varying distances, 170 of these being awarded to “ Learners.” Thirteen boys from

the Technical High School passed the Elementary and Intermediate Examination of the Royal Life Saving Society.

Equipment.

Owing to the restrictions imposed by the Government on the purchase of certain articles for physical training and games and the large classes in the schools it has been difficult to cater adequately for the educational needs of the children. Now that permits are no longer required, efforts are being made towards fuller replacements.

“ The Essex Agility Apparatus ” designed to meet the needs of the Primary Schools is now in use. Although at present only one set has been purchased it is hoped that additional sets of this most valuable acquisition, or something similar, will be made available before long.

Teachers' Refresher Course.

A course in Dancing was held during the Summer Term.

E. N. WALSH.

IX—CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS, TEACHERS, SCHOOL WELFARE OFFICERS AND VOLUNTARY BODIES.

(a) Parents.

Parents are invited by printed notice to attend at the school when their children are to undergo routine medical inspection, and many also accompany their children to the School Clinic.

The attendance and co-operation of parents facilitates all branches of inspection and treatment.

(b) Teachers.

Without the active co-operation of teachers, the School Health Service would be severely handicapped, and the thanks of the School Medical and Dental Staffs are due to all members of the teaching profession who have, during the past year, and in some cases for many years, done everything possible to assist the service.

Close co-operation exists between the various sections of the School Medical Service and Education Departments, and valuable help has also been afforded by Voluntary Associations and especially the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

X—HANDICAPPED PUPILS

(1)

(a) *Blind and Partially Sighted Children.*

The Education Committee are responsible for the maintenance of three children (partially sighted) at the East Anglian School. One child is awaiting admission.

(b) *Deaf and Partially Deaf Pupils.*

One child is maintained at the East Anglian School and two are waiting for admission.

(c) *Educationally Sub-normal Children.*

Fifteen children were examined during the year and of these four attend at ordinary school and eleven at the Occupation Centre. In addition three children are maintained at Special Residential Establishments.

(d) *Epileptic Children.*

One pupil is maintained at the Lingfield Epileptic Colony and one pupil is at home.

(e) *Physically Defective Children.*

Four children are maintained at a Residential Special School and one is at home.

(f) *Delicate Pupils*

There are no children maintained at Residential Special Schools.

(g) *Diabetic Pupils.*

No pupil was notified during the year.

(h) *Maladjusted Pupils.*

Three children were referred to the Norfolk County Council Child Guidance Clinic during the year.

(i) *Pupils suffering from Speech Defects.*

33 boys and 28 girls were notified during the year.

(j) *Pupils Suffering from Multiple Defects.*

No case was reported during the year.

(2) Developments and extensions arising out of the Education Act, 1944 :—

(a) *Delicate Children.*

The Authority proposes to establish a school for delicate pupils on a site to be selected and acquired.

(b) *Educationally Sub-normal Children.*

The Authority proposes to make arrangements for the special educational treatment of mentally retarded pupils, other than those requiring a Special School, in their own schools. In some cases this will be done by the organisation of special groups of retarded children, in others by special treatment of individual pupils working with normal classes.

(c) *Existing Special Schools not to be Maintained by the Authority.*

(i) Blind and deaf children are maintained at the East Anglian School where the Authority has twelve places reserved annually.

(ii) Orthopaedic cases are maintained at Melton Lodge and other institutions.

(d) *Physically Handicapped Pupils.*

The Authority has under consideration, in conjunction with neighbouring authorities, the provision of a Special School on a regional basis primarily for orthopaedic cases.

(e) Arrangements for securing the special educational treatment of pupils from the Authority's area in Special Schools outside that area —

(i) Epileptic Pupils—Cases are recommended for education in a Special School such as the Lingfield Epileptic Colony.

(ii) Physically Handicapped Children—Arrangements are made from time to time for cases to be referred to Winchmore Hill (Orthopaedic) Special School and Leasowe Orthopaedic Hospital.

(f) *Maladjusted Children.*

The authority has under discussion with the Norfolk Education Authority the establishment of a Child Guidance Clinic and would make any special educational arrangements for individual pupils, as recommended by the Psychiatrist.

(g) *Pupils Suffering from Speech Defects.*

The Authority has approved in principle an arrangement to provide, in conjunction with the Norwich and Norfolk Authorities, a Speech Therapy Clinic at Melton Lodge, Yarmouth.

XI—THE REPORT OF THE SUPERVISOR OF THE OCCUPATION CENTRE IS APPENDED :—

Home Visiting.

During the year 256 visits have been paid to the homes.

Occupation Centre.

This was opened as a full-time centre on 1st April. 24 children have been in attendance. A new Trainee Assistant was appointed. A mid-day dinner is provided under the scheme for school meals, to which all stay. The attendance throughout the year has been most regular.

From September the children received free milk in accordance with instructions from the Board of Control.

Any treatment necessary has been carried out at the various clinics.

The training included various handicrafts, e.g. rug and basket making, knitting, sewing, stool and toy making, raffia work, physical training and sense training, percussion band and music, together with games, singing and dancing.

The number on the Register of the Centre on 31st December was :—

Males under 16 years ... 8 ; over 16 years ... 2 = 10

Females under 16 years 14 ; over 16 years ... 1 = 15

Register of Mental Defectives.

The following are the number of cases notified and ascertained from reliable sources :—

<i>Institutions.</i>					<i>Under 16 years</i>	<i>Over 16 years</i>
Males	...	...	...	...	8	17
Females	...	...	...	...	1	14
<i>At Home.</i>					<i>Under 16 years</i>	<i>Over 16 years</i>
Males	...	...	...	...	20	26
Females	...	...	...	...	18	29
						TOTAL 93

15 new cases have been added to the Register during the year.

25 Mental Tests have been given during the year. From this number, 15 have been notified under sub-section (3) section 57 of the Education Act, 1944, and recommended for the Occupation Centre.

1 girl was notified under sub-section (5) Section 57 of the Education Act, and is attending the Centre.

1 girl has been transferred from License to the Guardianship of her father and is doing well.

1 of two brothers at Besford Court has been allowed out on License and reports concerning him are very satisfactory.

1 boy has been allowed home on License from Little Plumstead Hall, and attends the Centre.

Social Events.

On 20th December a Tea and Party was held at the Occupation Centre. All the children and their parents attended and enjoyed taking part in the games and activities of the children."

M. REDHEAD.

XII—PLANS FOR NEW CLINIC

The Health and Education Committees have proposed the erection of a new prefabricated clinic adjacent to the Town Hall. This clinic will provide modern facilities for all branches of the School Medical Service including up-to-date dental, eye, minor ailment, immunisation, and ultra-violet light departments.

The new clinic will enable the schoolchildren to have extended and better facilities for treatment and advice. It will be equipped on modern lines and should prove to be of inestimable value both as regards health and education.

XIII—MISCELLANEOUS

Fifty-one children were examined for employment during the year.

TABLE I

Medical Inspections of Pupils attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.

A. *Routine Medical Inspections.*

(1) No. of Inspections :—

Entrants	723
Second Age Group	320
Third Age Group	999

TOTAL	2042
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(2) No. of other routine Inspections ... 67

GRAND TOTAL	2109
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B. *Other Inspections.*

No. of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections ... 1561

TABLE II

Classification of the Nutrition of Pupils Inspected during the Year in the Routine Age Groups.

Number Pupils Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly Abnormal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2042	358	17.53	1574	77.4	109	5.33	1	0.048

TABLE III

Group 1. Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanness).

Total number of defects treated or under treatment
during the year under the Authority's scheme... 2173

Total number of attendances at the Clinics during
the year 11635

Group 2. Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint.
 Number of Defects dealt with :—

Errors of refraction (including squint) ...	Under Authority's Scheme 184
Other defects or diseases of the eye ...	69
TOTAL	253
Number of Pupils for whom spectacles were	
(a) prescribed	168
(b) obtained	168

Group 3. Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

	Under the Authority's Scheme
Received operative treatment	251
Received other forms of treatment	46
	<hr/> 297 <hr/>

TABLE IV

Dental Inspection and Treatment—

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the dentist :—	
(a) Routine Age Groups	3811
(b) Specials	340
TOTAL	<hr/> 4151 <hr/>
(2) Number found to require treatment	2508
(3) Number actually treated	1361
(4) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	2403
(5) Half-days devoted to :—	
Inspection	19
Treatment	366
TOTAL	<hr/> 385 <hr/>

(6)	Fillings :—					
	Permanent teeth	...	...	...	...	1275
	Temporary teeth	...	...	...	...	136
	TOTAL	...	...	...	...	1411
(7)	Extractions :—					
	Permanent teeth	...	...	...	...	193
	Temporary teeth	...	...	...	...	1754
	TOTAL	...	...	...	...	1947
(8)	Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction	...	...	...	...	Nil
(9)	Other operations :—					
	Permanent teeth	...	...	...	...	240
	Temporary teeth	...	...	...	...	75
	TOTAL	...	...	...	...	315

TABLE V

Verminous Conditions :—

(1)	Average number of visits per school made by the School Nurses	...	...	...	...	3.5
(2)	Total number of pupils examined by the School Nurses in the Schools	...	...	...	...	16935
(3)	Number of individual pupils found unclean	...	...	...	...	436

TABLE VI

Blind and Deaf Pupils :—

	1. <i>At a Maintained Primary or Secondary School</i>	2. <i>At an Institu- tion other than a Special School</i>	3. <i>At no School or Institution</i>
Blind or partially sighted	1	2	—
Deaf pupils	1	4	1



2.12/6.7

